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The first three chapters in this book defining prostitution and analyzing its demand and supply aspects have, in a sense, prepared the public for such a consideration of the fundamental factors in the problem.

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*Is War Diminishing? A Study of the Prevalence of War in Europe from 1450 to the Present Day.* By F. A. WOODS AND A. BALTZLY. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1916. $1.00.

Messrs. Woods and Baltzly have performed a great service in preparing this concise, business-like little book. Of all the books which I have read treating of peace and war, this is one of the very few which I shall keep on my desk for quick reference. In a way it is a classic. I say this because these men have presented facts instead of hopes and have been governed by statistics instead of by sympathies. They are among the very few who have attempted to treat a very dangerous subject in a scientific manner.

I also am delighted at the way in which they have got after the professional pacifists. They not only quote copiously from various publications of leading peace societies, but they speak right out in meeting and call names like "Carnegie," "Taft," "Butler," and others. I agree heartily with their comments upon such professional pacifist propaganda.

The statistics and dates are very useful and are very clearly presented. This also applies to the charts at the end of the book. These statistics represent much original work and are to be greatly commended. They show that during the past centuries the world has been at war about one-half of the time and that war is neither more nor less prevalent today than ever before. In short, I think the book is splendid so far as it goes, but I should have liked the privilege of adding one more chapter.

Let me explain what I mean by suggesting that the book is unfinished: I agree with the authors that the *status quo* is impossible and that self-preservation is the first law of nature. It is also self-evident that, this being the case, *under present conditions* militarism is inevitable. On the other hand, I see no reason why competition between nations cannot continue along economic lines without war, provided there are free markets.

I follow the authors up to the point of their conclusion, at which point I think that they fall into the footsteps of the pacifists and let

their personal opinions warp their statistical judgment. For instance, I see no reason why, with a democratic international organization in control of the trade routes, tariffs, immigration restrictions, etc., nations could not obtain peacefully the same results which they would obtain by war. Do not mistake my comment. Statistics show clearly that *status quo* is impossible and that a continual struggle is inevitable, but statistics also indicate that, with free markets and equal opportunity, nations could continue to struggle economically and secure *peacefully* the same results which they now must resort to war to secure.

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*The Psychology of Special Abilities and Disabilities.* By AUGUSTA BRONNER. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1917. Pp. 269. $1.75.

In this work Dr. Bronner has broken new ground. The literature of psychology has hitherto lacked an explicit statement of the problems involved in the study of special gifts and special defects. Psychologists engaged in applying their science to the practical study of human beings have been all too exclusively concerned with determining the level of general ability, and with classifying individuals for disposal on the basis of such determination. Dr. Bronner seeks to make a psychological *analysis* of the individual, as well as to obtain a quantitative measurement of his general intelligence. "An attempt has been made to discuss practical aspects of special abilities and disabilities, to offer in detail methods of attacking problem-cases, and to present various types, both (*a*) of particular disabilities in those who have normal general ability, and (*b*) of particular abilities in those who are below normal in general capacities."

Dr. Bronner brings to her task a rich experience in the personal examination of problem-cases in the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute of Chicago. Her presentation of the subject is, indeed, based on the experience afforded by such case studies. Forty-six concrete cases are presented, exemplifying problems in differential diagnosis, special defects in number work, special defects in language ability, special defects in separate mental processes, defects in mental control, and special abilities with general mental subnormality.

It is somewhat disappointing that the author has not felt able to give us more generalizations from the concrete material studied, but it would,